



May 3, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

I write to share the strong support of the National Retail Federation (NRF) for the American Health Care Act. **Please note that NRF may consider votes on the American Health Care Act and related procedural motions as Opportunity Index Votes for our annual voting scorecard.**

It is time now to start closing the book on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and begin a new chapter in health care with the new AHCA. Retailers strongly support repealing the ACA's employer mandate and rolling back many of the taxes that fund the law, including the so-called Cadillac Tax and other industry-directed taxes, like the health insurance tax, actually paid by insurance premium payers. We commend the sponsors for tackling Medicaid, too. Far too much of the federal budget is on automatic pilot through entitlement spending. This first step, though politically difficult, is welcome and important.

Budget reconciliation procedures offer real opportunity but also present profound challenges. The price of circumventing a likely Senate filibuster is major limitations on what can be included in a reconciliation bill. The resulting legislation might not be anyone's ideal but it will advance in law the cause of bringing real relief from the ACA.

The challenge of replacing the ACA is magnified by public attitudes changed by many years of ACA implementation. Consumer protections enacted as part of the ACA are both valued and popular now. Enactable reform must bridge between present protections and their equivalent or better protections in the new law. Change for merely the sake of change does not suffice.

We continue to believe that the AHCA is reasonable legislation that will be signed into law. This is the real repeal vote and we strongly urge you to join us in supporting the AHCA.

Sincerely,

David French
Senior Vice President
Government Relations

cc: Members, U.S. House of Representatives